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Research Note

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

Missoula, Montana

No. 34 September 27, 1944

Christmas Tree Production in Western Montana in 1943 a/

Christmas tree production in western Montana in 1943 reached an all-time high of 3,102,480 trees as compared with 3,082,650 in 1941, the previous record year. Production amounted to 2,203,750 trees in 1942 and in 1940 (the first year the cut exceeded 2,000,000) 2,338,350 trees were produced.

In addition to Christmas trees, which were practically all Douglas-fir, numerous decorative wreaths, sprays, garlands, decorated pine cones and pine cone clusters were produced. For example, the Flathead National Forest sold 2,700 pounds of boughs for such uses.

The principal producing areas were Flathead County which contributed 1,547,950 trees, of which 185,250 were shipped by rail from Polson in Lake County, and Lincoln County which yielded 1,243,800 trees.

Shipments were to all parts of the country, but most of the trees moved eastward to the same large cities, which have been the principal destinations in previous years. A high percentage of the truck shipments were back-hauled on trucks engaged in interstate traffic.

The average stumpage price received on national forests was 5.0 cents per tree and on State lands 5.6 cents per tree - an increase of 1.4 cents per tree over 1942 prices in both cases.

Further details concerning the origin of trees in western Montana are given in the attached table:

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a/ Prepared by J. L. Timm, Division of Forest Products.

Shipments of Christmas Trees from Western Montana in 1943

County	Railroad Shipments 1/								Truck 2/ shipments	All 3/ shipments
	Great Northern		Northern Pacific		C.M.St.P. & P.		Total			
	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Carloads	Trees	Trees	Trees
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Flathead	274	1,301,500	-	-	-	-	274	1,301,500	61,200	1,362,700
Granite	-	-	3	14,250	-	-	3	14,250	5,650	19,900
Lake	-	-	58	275,500	-	-	58	275,500	-	275,500
Lincoln	246	1,168,500	-	-	-	-	246	1,168,500	75,300	1,243,800
Mineral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,800	10,800
Missoula	-	-	8	38,000	7	33,250	15	71,250	9,000	80,250
Powell	-	-	-	-	2	9,500	2	9,500	4,500	14,000
Ravalli	-	-	8	38,000	-	-	8	38,000	1,780	39,780
Sanders	-	-	11	52,250	-	-	11	52,250	3,000	55,250
Silver Bow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	500
Total	520	2,470,000	88	418,000	9	42,750	617	2,930,750	171,730	3,102,480

1/ Origin of trees is as follows, by counties and shipping stations: Flathead County: Kalispell, 274 cars. Granite County: Drummond, 3 cars. Lake County: Arlee, 8 cars; Polson, 42 cars (of which 39 cars originated in Flathead County); Ronan, 8 cars. Lincoln County: Eureka, 199 cars; Fortine, 11 cars; Libby, 29 cars; Rexford, 5 cars; Troy, 2 cars. Missoula County: Missoula, 15 cars. Powell County: Deerlodge, 2 cars. Ravalli County: Darby, 8 cars. Sanders County: Plains, 11 cars.

2/ Truck shipments (171,730 trees) represent a compilation of estimates made by district rangers and supervisors on the Flathead, Kootenai, Lolo, Bitterroot, Cabinet and Deerlodge National Forests.

3/ Origin of the total production (3,102,480 trees) is approximately as follows: State of Montana forests, 163,618 trees (5.3 percent); national forests, 324,297 trees (10.4 percent); private lands, 2,614,565 trees (84.3 percent).

The 324,297 trees cut on national forests originated as follows: Bitterroot, 21,701 trees; Cabinet, 1,602 trees; Flathead, 37,730 trees; Kootenai, 248,024 trees; Lolo, 15,240 trees. The average stumpage price received for these trees was 5.0 cents each. The average price received by the State of Montana for trees cut from State forests was 5.6 cents each.